

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2969

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: WHO

SUBJ: WHO AD HOC COMMITTEE SELECTS USSR AS SITE FOR 1978

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 80920#

1. SUMMARY: WHO AD HOC COMMITTEE SELECTS USSR AS SITE FOR
WHO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CONFERENCE IN 1978. END SUMMARY.

2. DR TEHADA DE RIVERO, WHO ADG, HAS RETURNED TO GENEVA
AFTER TWO WEEKS' ABSENCE AND HAS PROVIDED MISSION ON CON-
FIDENTIAL BASIS WITH RESULTS OF WHO AD HOC COMMITTEE
MEETING ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR
1978 AS FOLLOWS:

A. AD HOC COMMITTEE MET WEEK OF MARCH 29. REPORT OF
AD HOC COMMITTEE'S WORK NOW READY BUT CANNOT BE RELEASED
PRIOR TO WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY.

B. AD HOC COMMITTEE CONSISTED OF DRS KOSTRZEWSKI
(POLAND) AS CHAIRMAN (DR KOSTRZEWSKI ALSO CHAIRMAN OF
RECENT 57TH EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION); DLAMINI (SWAZILAND);
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TARUNO (TANZANIA); VALLADARES (VENEZUELA); ONE OF TWO

VICE CHAIRMEN OF 57TH EB; AND KHALEQUE SUBSTITUTING FOR HOSSAIN (BANGLADESH). UNDER WHO RULES OF PROCEDURE, DR VENEDICTOV (USSR) ALSO PARTICIPATED IN AD HOC COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS, BUT AS NON-COMMITTEE MEMBER HE WAS NOT PERMITTED VOTING PRIVILEGES. WHO ADG TEJADA DE RIVERA WAS STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND ADG FURTH PARTICIPATED AS STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER.

C. DR TEJADA REPORTED THAT HE HAD TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY FOR THREE DAYS TO REACH BY TELEPHONE COSTA RICAN MINISTER OF HEALTH, WEINSTOCK, FOR FINAL DECISION BY COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT WHETHER IT COULD HOST PHC CONFERENCE IN 1978. SINCE EGYPT HAD EARLIER WITHDRAWN ITS OFFER MADE DURING LAST EB SESSION TO HOST CONFERENCE BECAUSE, DR TEJADA SAID, OF FINANCIAL BURDEN, USSR WAS ONLY REMAINING MEMBER STATE STILL WILLING TO HOST CONFERENCE.

D. USSR (DR VENEDICTOV) PLEDGED \$900,000-\$1,000,000 TO COVER USSR SHARE OF CONFERENCE COSTS. CONFERENCE TO LAST ONE TO ONE ANDHALF WEEKS. CONFERENCE NOT TO BE HELD IN MOSCOW. DR TEJADA SAID WHO DG WILL SELECT CITY. WHEN PRESSED BY MISSION THAT TASHKENT HAD BEEN OVERHEARD IN WHO CORRIDORS, DR TEJADA STATED THAT IN HIS OPINION, UNOFFICIALLY, TASHKENT WOULD BE EVENTUAL CHOICE. HE ALSO MENTIONED USSR WOULD MAKE "IN KIND" CONTRIBUTION IN ADDITION TO FINANCIAL COMMITMENT, BUT HE WAS UNWILLING TO SPELL OUT EXACTLY WHAT THIS WOULD BE. HE VENTURED OPINION THAT COSTA RICA PROBABLY WOULD NOT HAVE HAD SUFFICIENT HOTEL FACILITIES FOR VERY LARGE NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES EXPECTED TO ATTEND CONFERENCE, LEAVING IMPRESSION USSR TO PROVIDE REDUCED HOTEL RATES, ETC.

E. DR TEJADA TOOK PAINS TO SAY CONFERENCE TO BE SPONSORED BY WHO, NOT USSR; THAT USSR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO BE GIVEN TO WHO SO THAT WHO WILL PAY FOR AND SPONSOR CONFERENCE; AND THAT WHO, NOT USSR, WILL EXTEND INVITATIONS TO MEMBER STATES.

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F. REGARDING INVITATIONS, DR TEJADA SAID AD HOC COMMITTEE DECIDED THAT EACH MEMBER STATE PLANNING TO ATTEND CONFERENCE WILL BE ASKED TO DESIGNATE AT LEAST THREE REPRESENTATIVES: ONE FROM MINISTRY OF HEALTH (HE DID NOT SAY AT THE MINISTER LEVEL); ONE FROM "NATIONAL PLANNING MINISTRY OR BODY"; AND ONE WITH "TECHNICAL EXPERTISE" ON PHC MATTERS. CONFERENCE SIZE TO REACH 1,000 OR MORE.

G. AD HOC COMMITTEE DECIDED ON SECOND HALF OF AUGUST OR FIRST TWO WEEKS IN SEPTEMBER 1978, AS TIME OF CONFERENCE. PURPOSE OF CONFERENCE, TEJADA SAID, IS TO HAVE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON PHC ON COUNTRY LEVEL (HIS PHRASE WAS "NATIONAL CONSULTATION LEVEL") AND TO PROMOTE THE URGENCY OF PHC AT THIS LEVEL.

H. FINALLY, DR TEJADA SAID THAT SINCE CHAIRMAN OF AD HOC COMMITTEE (DR KOSTRZEWSKI OF POLAND) IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF EXECUTIVE BOARD, DR KOSTRZEWSKI WILL INCLUDE THE REPORT AND DECISIONS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE AS PART OF HIS EB CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY IN MAY.

3. COMMENT. DR TEJADA HAD NO COMMENTS TO MAKE ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HOLDING THE CONFERENCE IN THE USSR, PROFESSIONAL, POLITICAL OR OTHERWISE. HOWEVER, MISSION OFF-THE-RECORD TALKS WITH OTHER WHO SECRETARIAT MEMBERS REVEALED VARYING DEGREES OF CONCERN THAT AD HOC COMMITTEE'S SELECTION OF USSR AS CONFERENCE SITE WILL DEPRIVE WHO OF PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO PHC CONFERENCE OF THOSE MEMBER STATES WHO WILL REFUSE TO ATTEND CONFERENCE FOR POLITICAL REASONS, NOTABLE THE PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

ONE OF PRINCIPAL ARCHITECTS IN PLANNING CONFERENCE WILL BE WHO DR K. NEWELL, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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STRENGTHENING OF HEALTH SERVICES. THREE OR FOUR TIMES IN PAST FEW WEEKS, MISSION HAS HEARD RUMORS THAT DR NEWELL MAY LEAVE WHO BY END OF THIS YEAR IN VIEW OF PROBLEMS WITH WHO SECRETARIAT BUT NOT WITH DG MAHLER, WHO APPEARS TO HOLD NEWELL IN HIGH REGARD "AS A DOER".

REFTEL INDICATED AID WAS STILL EXPLORING WAYS OF FINANCING PHC CONFERENCE IN COSTA RICA, AS THOUGH AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT NOT FINAL. 57TH EXECUTIVE BOARD AUTHORIZED AD HOC COMMITTEE NOT TO RECOMMEND TO WHA BUT "TO DECIDE" ON ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO PHC CONFERENCE IN 1978. ABRAMS

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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